

**A RESOLUTION
BY PUBLIC SAFETY AND LEGAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT
DESIGNATION OF THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT AS THE
PASS THROUGH AGENCY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT
THE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE A
COORDINATED, MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ATTACK ON DRUG
TRAFFICKING IN THE METROPOLITAN ATLANTA AREA, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Atlanta High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program, funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, has operated in the Atlanta area since 1995 with the stated objective of reducing significantly the number of armed and violent career criminals engaged in drug trafficking and violent crime in the Atlanta area, and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Metro HIDTA Task Force annually identifies and targets a specific number of drug trafficking organizations. These groups are then targeted for continuing disruption and ultimate dismantling by state and federal prosecution, with eighty percent of HIDTA task force cases originating in the City of Atlanta, and

WHEREAS, by acting as 'pass through' agency for the HIDTA program, the Atlanta Police Department would assume a leadership role in continuing the operation of the drug trafficking reduction initiatives

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Section one: that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all agreements to designate the Atlanta Police as the 'pass through' agency for federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) funds.

Section two: that the continuing HIDTA program will integrate, state, local and federal prosecution with law enforcement.

Legislative White Paper

Committee of Purview: Public Safety and Legal Administration

Caption A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT DESIGNATION OF THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT AS THE PASS THROUGH AGENCY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) TASK FORCE TO CONTINUE A COORDINATED, MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL ATTACK ON DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE METROPOLITAN ATLANTA AREA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Council Meeting Date: May 2, 2005

Legislation Title: HIDTA designation

Requesting Dept.: Police

Contract Type: Grant

Source Selection: Not applicable

Bids/Proposals Due: Not applicable

Invitations Issued: Not applicable

Number of Bids/ Not applicable

Proposals Received: Not applicable

Bidders/Proponents: Not applicable

Justification Statement: The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy has funded the HIDTA program for the past decade. Federal funds to support the activities of the multi-jurisdictional task force must be administered by a jurisdiction that is participating in the program. In the past, the GBI has taken on this role, but is no longer willing to do so. To assure the continued operation of this highly effective multi-agency initiative, the Atlanta Police Department will assume the role of the HIDTA administering agency.

Background: The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force began operation in 1995, funded by grants from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The program is funded by an allocation of \$3.8 million annually and is governed locally by an executive committee consisting of representatives from law enforcement agencies at the federal, state and local levels, as follows:

Richard J. Pennington, Chief of Police, City of Atlanta

Vernon Keenan, Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Loius Graham, Chief of Police, DeKalb County
Brain Owens, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Corrections
Gwendolyn R. Keyes, District Attorney, DeKalb County
Bruce Hoopes, Addictive Diseases Chief, Georgia Department of Human Resources
Gregory Jones, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Paul Howard, District Attorney, Fulton County
Thurbert Baker, Georgia Attorney General
Bill Hitchens, Colonel, Georgia State Patrol
Michael Scoles, Major, Georgia National Guard
Sherri Strange, Special Agent in Charge, U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration
Eugene, Wilson, Chief of Police, MARTA
George Coleman, Chief of Police, Fulton, County
David Nahmias, U. S. Attorney, Northern District of Georgia
James Vickery, Special Agent in Charge, U. S. Internal Revenue Service
Vanesssa McLemore, Special Agent in Charge, U. S. Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms
Richard Mecum, U. S. Marshal
Kenneth Smith, U. S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Each year, the HIDTA Task Force identifies drug trafficking organizations in the metropolitan Atlanta area to target for disruption and elimination via state and federal prosecution, coupled with coordinated law enforcement by task force law enforcement agencies. To date, 80% of HIDTA cases have originated in the City of Atlanta.

Fund Account Center: To be assigned by the Department of Finance upon award of the grants.

Source of Funds: White House Office of National Drug Control Policy

Fiscal Impact: None, 100% grant funded

Term of Contract: Open, so long as the Department is willing to continue as fiduciary agent for th task force.

Method of Cost Recovery: Not applicable

Approvals:

DOF:

DOL:

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